



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983-1950

Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
208-476-4541

File Code: 1950

Date: February 4, 2016

Honorable Anthony Johnson
Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

Honorable Chairman Johnson,

I am enclosing the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice/FONSI for the Saddle Camp Road Reroute Project project for your review. Three public comments were received on the Draft Environmental Assessment, all in support of the project. No changes to the proposed activities or analyses were made; however, a design measure was added to indicate the need to acquire a Highway 12 Right of Way permit from the Idaho Transportation Department.

The proposed project is located on the Lochsa-Powell District of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and is a partnership effort with the Watershed Division of the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management. The project consists of relocating the entrance of the Saddle Camp Road 107 and a dispersed campsite access just to the west of Indian Grave Creek. The existing entryways would be decommissioned and rehabilitated, including removing the undersized culvert and restoring full aquatic organism passage in this section of Indian Grave Creek. The Final EA is also available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46730.

I have tentatively decided to select Alternative 2 which best meets the purpose and need and addresses the issues considered in the analysis.

This phase of the analysis begins the objection period, pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, express delivery, messenger service or by hand-delivery to Northern Region, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804 (Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, excluding holidays); or FAX to (406) 329-3411. Objections will be accepted electronically and should be submitted in Word, PDF, or Rich Text format. Electronic objections must be submitted to the objection reviewing officer via e-mail to: FS-appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us with "Saddle Camp Road Reroute Project" in the subject line.



Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact me at (208) 926-6400, or Taylor Greenup at (208) 476-5388. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BKnapton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brandon Knapton
Lochsa-Powell District Ranger
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Enclosures

cc: Christine Bradbury, Amanda Rogerson, Aaron Miles, Sr., Dave Johnson